

IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 5, 2003

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## **Istook Praises Historic Partial-Birth Abortion Ban**

*Washington, D.C.* – Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) today attended President Bush's signing of legislation banning partial-birth abortion, and expressed optimism that the bill will withstand court challenges. The Supreme Court legalized virtually unrestricted abortions with a 1973 ruling, and Istook says past-due that Congress acted.

**“All of America has an interest in protecting innocent life,”** said Istook. **“And we should not back away from that mission. This bill bans the most gruesome and extremist form of abortion, namely killing a viable baby at the very threshold of its birth, just an instant before it takes its first breath. Even many supporters of abortion recognize that this is barbaric, and should not be permitted. It will save thousands of lives each year. I congratulate President Bush for signing this historic legislation.”**

Partial-birth abortion is conducted late in a woman's pregnancy, in the second and third trimesters, by delivering the baby feet first until the entire body except the head is outside the birth canal, then puncturing its skull and sucking the baby's brains out.

The U.S. Congress has voted to ban partial-birth abortions during the 104<sup>th</sup>, 105<sup>th</sup>, and 106<sup>th</sup> Congresses and at least 27 states, including Oklahoma, enacted bans on the procedure. Unfortunately, however, President Clinton vetoed the measures.

Many abortionists for a long time tried to conceal how common the practice has become. The executive director of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers, Dr. Ron Fitzsimmons, ultimately confessed publicly that he and others had been lying about how widespread the practice is. In an interview with *The New York Times* he admitted the lies that he and others had been telling to the media and the public. He also admitted that women typically use partial-birth abortion simply as a means to get rid of an unwanted pregnancy, not because the mother's life is in danger. He added that partial-birth abortion “...is a form of killing. You're ending a life.”